Advisory Council on Heritage Property

ANNUAL REPORT

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Nova Scotia

ANNUAL REPORT

for the fiscal year ended march 31, 1984

To His Honour
The Honourable Alan R. Abraham, C.D.
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Nova Scotia

Sir:

I have the honour to submit herewith, the third annual report of the Advisory Council on Heritage Property, for the fiscal year concluding March 31, 1984.

Respectfully submitted,

Billy Joe MacLean
Minister of Culture,
Recreation and Fitness

ANNUAL REPORT—YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1984

History and Administration

The Heritage Property Act was assented to by the Lieutenant Governor on June 5th, 1980. The stated purpose of the Act is "to provide for the identification, designation, preservation, protection and rehabilitation of buildings, streetscapes and areas of historical, architectural or cultural value and to encourage their continued use."

The Minister's Advisory Council on Heritage Property has been working toward the goals and objectives of the Act since this body was established in December of 1980. This marks the third year that Council has been providing advice to the Minister concerning heritage properties and other related issues.

The Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness is responsible for the administration of the Act under the direction of the Honourable Billy Joe MacLean.

Members of Council

During 1983, the Advisory Council saw the departure of its first chairman, Commander Evan Petley-Jones, who was replaced by Gordon H. Thompson. Mr. Thompson had served as a member of Council since its inception. Two other members also retired—Dr. Robert Morgan of Sydney and Dr. Raymond MacLean of Antigonish.

The following is a list of the members:

Gordon H. Thompson, Chairman	Halifax
Louis Stephen, Vice Chairman	Halifax
Very Reverend E.B.N. Cochran	Mahone Bay
Yvonne Dallien	Port Hawkesbury
Tom Forrestall	Dartmouth
Gordon B. Kinsman	Truro
Charles W. MacIntosh	Halifax
Ronald M. Peck	Wolfville
George Piercey	Halifax
Elizabeth Ross	Halifax

Having many tasks before them this dedicated group met on six occasions in 1983-84, one meeting was held in the Town of Lunenburg. The Advisory Council plans to continue meeting outside the Halifax metro area at least once each year.

Activities

During the summer of 1983, employees hired under the Provincial Summer Employment Program and working under the direction of the staff of the Heritage Unit, continued to collect data on pre-1914 structures. A group of employees, working in the Town of Amherst, collected architectural, historical and photographic documentation on structures in the West Highlands area of that town. Deed research was also completed for each of the properties. A similar project was conducted in the New Minas area of Kings County as well. This information is now stored at the Heritage Office and copies of the data were retained in the local areas concerned.

Municipalities

During this period, only one municipality, the Municipality of the District of Barrington, adopted a Heritage By-Law, bringing the total number of municipalities having a Heritage By-law to 19. However, at least six other municipalities are currently discussing the merits of such a By-Law. The Advisory Council looks forward to continued liaison with these municipalities.

During the year, the Town of Lunenburg completed and published an inventory of over 600 buildings in that town. The inventory will be the basis for property registrations by the municipality. The information contained in this study will be of immense value to the Advisory Council and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Fitness.

A number of other municipalities have sought advice from the Heritage Unit on the development of an inventory process. This type of co-ordinated effort will hopefully provide a basic format for future surveys and property documentation.

Plaque

The Advisory Council continued efforts started last year to develop a plaque, which will be placed on provincially registered heritage properties. A design submitted by Tom Forrestall, a Nova Scotia artist, was recommended to the Minister and approved by Cabinet. Bilingual plaques will be used in four specifically designated areas; Clare, Ile Madame, Cheticamp, Argyle, and English plaques in the remainder of the province.

Efforts will continue to seek out a suitable manufacturer who can produce the plaque in the material and design required.

Provincial Registry of Heritage Property

In addition to the five properties registered by the Minister in 1982, the Provincial Registry grew by 19 properties during the past 12 months. With registration pending on an additional nine structures, the Registry is taking shape.

These properties, which have been identified as being of significant heritage value to all Nova Scotians, are scattered from Sydney to Yarmouth and Amherst to Halifax. During 1983-84 the following were registered:

Property	Town/City	County
Cossit House	Sydney	Cape Breton
Gilbert Grosvenor Hall	Baddeck	Victoria
Government House	Halifax	Halifax
Haliburton House	Windsor	Hants
Lawrence House	Maitland	Hants
MacAskill (Wallace) House	St. Peter's	Richmond
MacRae-Bittermann House	Upper West Side Middle River	Victoria
Old Halifax Academy	Halifax	Halifax
Old Halifax Court House	Halifax	Halifax
Old Meeting House	Barrington	Shelburne
Old Sydney Mines Post Office	Sydney Mines	Cape Breton
Perkins House	Liverpool	Queens
Prescott House	Starrs Point	Kings
Province House	Halifax	Halifax
Quaker House	Dartmouth	Halifax
Ritcey House	Riverport	Lunenburg
Ross-Thompson House	Shelburne	Shelburne
St. Paul's Anglican Church	Halifax	Halifax
Uniacke House	Mount Uniacke	Hants

A number of properties are now being actively researched and considered for inclusion in the Registry.

Conclusion

The framework of the Provincial Registry is now established. With the mechanisms for evaluating properties well in place, the Advisory Council looks forward in the coming year to devoting more of its attention to public awareness and education.